

**Quarterly Meeting of the
Technical Oversight Committee (TOC)
Tuesday, February 26, 2008**

**South Florida Water Management District
3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406**

TOC Representatives:

Garth Redfield, TOC Chair, SFWMD Ken Weaver, FDEP
Nick Aumen, NPS/ENP Mike Waldon, USFWS/Refuge
Trent Ferguson, USACE

Note: This meeting was recorded by a court reporter and copies are available for purchase; contact Rufino Osorio in the SFWMD's Office of Counsel (561/682-6261). Handouts and presentations are also available on the TOC website (<http://www.sfwmd.gov/toc>).

10:10 a.m. **TOC Meeting called to order by TOC Chair**

10:10 a.m. **Modifications to the agenda and announcement of documents available on the TOC website** – Garth Redfield, SFWMD

The agenda (**Attachment 1**) was modified to allow presentation of research accomplishments (Agenda Item 3) at 11:00 a.m. prior to the Settlement Agreement Report (Agenda Item 2).

10:15 a.m. **Agenda Item #1A. Approval of TOC meeting notes from August 28, 2007 and December 18, 2007 meetings** – Garth Redfield, SFWMD

The minutes from the August 2007 and December 2007 meetings (**Attachments 2 and 3**) have been posted on the TOC website and no comments have been received to date. The TOC representatives approved the minutes as posted.

→ **Action Item #1:** Garth Redfield will post the draft minutes from the February 26th quarterly TOC meeting on the website in March 2008.

→ **Action Item #2:** TOC representatives will review and approve the February 26th meeting minutes electronically by the end of April 2008.

10:20 a.m. **Agenda Item #1B. Memorandum on timing of data loading** – Garth Redfield, SFWMD

The SFWMD laboratory procedures for validating data and uploading it to DBHYDRO are summarized in a memo from David Struve, SFWMD (**Attachment 4**). The memo was posted on the TOC website as a read-ahead for this meeting. In brief, data sets are loaded by batch when QA/QC procedures are completed for all results for a given sample. In some cases, results can be delayed pending a QA/QC inquiry and may be uploaded to DBHYDRO out of order. DBHYDRO is updated daily with available data

→ **Action Item #3:** Mike Waldon, USFWS, will test retrieval of provisional and final flow data via the SFWMD external web browser. If data accessibility problems are encountered, he should contact Sharon Peterkin, SFWMD, at (561) 681-2500, x4595, for assistance.

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10:25 a.m. **Agenda Item #1C. Resampling of LOX stations in the Refuge** – Peter Rawlik, SFWMD

As a follow-up from the last TOC meeting, Peter Rawlik, SFWMD, presented an overview of four scenarios that can result in resampling of LOX stations in the Refuge: sampling issues, laboratory issues, project logistics, and data validation. In general, routine monthly sampling frequency is preferred. If needed, resampling should be scheduled within 2 days of the original sampling event to avoid impacts of fluctuating stage levels.

All TOC representatives agreed that if stations are resampled for TP, all other standard monitoring parameters (e.g., TN, turbidity) should also be analyzed. If any stations are resampled, results will be reported in the quarterly Settlement Agreement report and presented at the quarterly TOC meeting. Copies of the presentation (**Attachment 5**) were distributed.

- **Action Item #4:** Garth Redfield, SFWMD, will verify whether consultation among TOC representatives regarding the need for resampling in the Refuge is acceptable under Florida's Sunshine Laws.
- **Action Item #5:** Garth Redfield and Peter Rawlik, SFWMD, will prepare a 1-page recommended procedure for resampling in the Refuge.
- **Action Item #6:** Cheol Mo, SFWMD, will use representative historical data to recalculate the long-term levels and compliance status for the Refuge with non-weighted and weighted average stage levels (based on the number of stations sampled each day). Results will be discussed with Bill Walker.
- **Action Item #7:** Bill Walker recommended a statistical sensitivity analysis using historical data to determine the extent that missing data would affect compliance.

10:45 a.m. **Agenda Item #1D. L40 Sites and Sampling Changes in G94D and ACME1DS** – Peter Rawlik, SFWMD

Peter Rawlik, SFWMD, presented a follow-up to the USFWS request to re-activate monitoring at stations L40-1 and L40-2, which ceased in 1999. In the December 2007 quarterly meeting, the TOC approved reduced monitoring at nearby stations ACME1DS and G94D. Stations L40-1 and L40-2 were used in initial development of the ELM model. The SFWMD does not recommend monitoring at stations L40-1 and L40-2 since they are not representative of water quality in the L-40 Canal and the approved monitoring approach of ACME1DS and G94D provides input data for the Refuge. Copies of the presentation (**Attachment 6**) were distributed.

- **Action Item #8:** Mike Waldon, USFWS, will contact Carl Fitz to verify how water quality data for L40-1 and L40-2 were used in development of the ELM model.

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10:55 a.m. **Agenda Item #1E. Arrange a working group on Refuge water quality** – Mike Waldon, USFWS

A working group has not yet been set up to evaluate Refuge water quality. This item may be considered at a future TOC meeting.

11:00 a.m. **Agenda Item #3. Research Accomplishments for the Consent Decree** – Sue Newman, SFWMD

Sue Newman and Fred Sklar, SFWMD, presented an overview of the SFWMD's Everglades research conducted since 1994. The 1991 Settlement Agreement specified 4 major areas of research: modeling, existing conditions, imbalance criteria, and best management practices (BMPs). Scientific review panels were created to review both the experimental design phases and the final results. The Everglades research conducted to date has: 1) established a P-associated definition of imbalance; 2) described existing conditions; 3) separated hydrologic impacts from P impacts; and 4) demonstrated the importance of periphyton. Copies of the presentation (**Attachment 7**) were distributed.

→ **Action Item #9:** Sue Newman will provide a bibliography of publications prepared since 2005. (Dan Scheidt/EPA had previously prepared a reference list for earlier publications related to Everglades research.)

11:55 a.m. **Lunch Break**

1:00 p.m. **Agenda Item #2. Presentation of the Settlement Agreement Report** – Pam Lehr, SFWMD

Pam Lehr, SFWMD, presented the 4th Quarter 2007 Settlement Agreement report. Copies of the report (**Attachment 8**) and presentation (**Attachment 9**) were distributed. TP concentrations were in full compliance with the terms of the Settlement Agreement and Consent Degree for the federal water year through September 2007.

1:30 p.m. **Agenda Item #4A. Update on STAs and Related Projects** – Tracey Piccone, SFWMD

Tracey Piccone, SFWMD, presented an update on STAs and related projects including EAA Reservoir A-1, Bolles Canal improvements, Compartment B and C STAs, the EAA Conveyance and Regional Treatment (ECART) project, and the L-8 Basin project. Tracey also presented the SFWMD drought strategy for prioritizing water needs among STAs. Copies of the presentation (**Attachment 10**) were distributed. Tracey announced that detailed updates of the Long-Term Plan projects would be presented at the Annual Long-Term Plan meeting on February 29, 2008.

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1:45 p.m. **Agenda Item #4B. Update from Working Group on the Water Needs of the Refuge – Mike Waldon, USFWS**

Mike Waldon, USFWS, reported that after recent rainfall the Refuge is currently in Zone 1A (approximately a foot above schedule) which requires mandatory releases per the regulation schedule. The USFWS will present 2 posters at the USGS modeling meeting in Alabama. Current models do not accommodate groundwater flow during extreme drought conditions. Mike announced that the next Refuge Water Needs Work Group meeting was scheduled for March 19th and the next modeling workshop was scheduled for March 20th.

→ **Action Item #10:** Mike Waldon will provide a website link for posters to be presented at the USGS modeling meeting in Alabama.

2:00 p.m. **Agenda Item #4C. Key Findings of FDEP Workshop on Mercury and Sulfur Issues – Frank Nearhoof, FDEP**

Frank Nearhoof, FDEP, provided an update on the mercury/sulfur workshop organized by FDEP in Homestead on February 12th and 13th. Approximately 30 research scientists attended and reached some consensus on the relationship between mercury and sulfur (e.g., mercury methylation rates). The group outlined future studies needed to answer key questions about the role of mercury and sulfur in the Everglades. FDEP is working on a statement of work for a contractor to conduct data synthesis of existing data. Results may be used to support the statewide TMDL for mercury.

2:10 p.m. **Agenda Item #5. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

2:15 p.m. **Agenda Item #6. 2008 TOC Meeting Dates**

Upcoming Meeting dates are posted on the Website. There will not be a special TOC meeting held in March 2008. Tentative special meeting dates are reserved for April 15th and April 29th. The next Quarterly Meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2008.

→ **Action Item #11:** Garth Redfield will arrange for public notices for the May 20th quarterly meeting.

2:20 p.m. ***Meeting Adjourned***